

OCT 12 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1, and 3-10, and 12-17 are now pending in the application. Claim 11 has been canceled herein without prejudice. Claims 3, 9, 10, and 12 have been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 1, 3-8, and 17, and the indicated allowability of claims 11-13 subject to being rewritten in independent form.

Independent claims 9 and 10 have been amended herein to contain all features recited in claims 1 and 11, respectively. Claims 3 and 12 have been amended herein to correctly depend from claims 1 and 10, respectively.

In summary, independent claims 9 and 10 now contain all features corresponding to those recited in allowed claim 1. Therefore, claims 9, 10, and 14-16 are now believed to allowable over the cited art.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-663-1100, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Haruo Yawata
Limited Recognition No. L0109

P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250
510-663-1100, ext. 245